

A BILL has been introduced into Congress providing the severest penalties against any candidate for Congress who "brags" either before or after election. This is a step in the direction of economy and retrenchment that will be bitterly denounced as a piece of uncalculated meanness and depravity by the "bores."

Russia's disgraced persecution of the Jews has evoked a mammoth mass meeting in London, at which such men as the Archbishop of Canterbury, Cardinal Manning and Canon Farrar were present, while letters were read from Tennyson, Spurgeon and many other nobles. It is gratifying to learn that the Czar has determined to revoke some of the most oppressive decrees against the Hebrew race, Russia chastised Turkey severely for her barbarous persecutions, and now deserves equal chastisement for persisting in a course which, according to the resolutions passed at the London meeting, tends to degrade her in the eyes of Christians.

The Commissioner of Pensions reports to Congress that if all the pension claims of the late war be passed by 1888, and after that the claims for the Mexican war be passed, the government would be required to pay them will amount to \$1,471,651,693 by the year 1906, of which \$51,600,000 will be for Mexican war claims. The annual expenditures decrease from \$24,000,000 a year to \$25,000,000. This is more than a billion of dollars, and as it is notorious that pensioners never die, the census commissioner has, in all probability, underestimated the actual expenditures. If this money went direct to deserving pensioners all would be well, but the charge is made that most of it will be thrown away on frauds and pension agents.

Judge Cox has sentenced Guiteau to be hanged on the 30th of June next. When asked what he had to say, the condemned man spoke as follows: "I am not guilty of the charges set forth in the indictment. I was God's son, not mine, and God will take care of it, and I don't let the American people forget it. He will take care of it, for every officer of this Government, from the Executive down to the Marshal, taking in every man on that jury and every member of this bench, will pay for it and the American Nation will be in blood if I am not hanged on the ground and I am hung. The Jews that despised Gallileo into the grave. For a time they triumphed, but at the destruction of Jerusalem, twenty years after, God Almighty got even with them. I am not afraid of them. I am here as God's man. Kill me to-morrow, if you want. I am God's man, and I have been from the start."

After the sentence was passed he repeated the above remarks with some variations. Scoville is willing to sell Guiteau's body to an embalmer for exhibition on the ground that body snatchers would get it anyhow, and it might as well be made safe at once. Guiteau says he will give his body to science when he dies, but that will be a long way off. He says he will be all right when he gets to the Supreme Court.

CONTINGENT funds are notorious vehicles for questionable expenditures, and the contingent fund of the House of Representatives at Washington is no exception. The clerk's official report gives a list of "newspapers" purchased for the use of members. Among these are found such names as the following: Little Budgeter, Little Tot, Pretty Peggy, Fine Grey Girl, Lass of God's, Chatterbox, Wonder Eyes, Alice in Wonderland, Lucille, Jack and Jill, Boys of '76, Young Mariners, Drifting Round the World, Bodley Abou, Wild Arrows, Under the Lilacs, Under the Teas, Old and Even, Which Wins, We Seven, Paul and Virginia, Swiss Family Robinson, Royal Road, Robin Crusoe, Thaddeus of Warsaw, King Arthur, Lord Bacon, Charles James Fox, Arabian Nights, Eudynia, Ziggag Journey, Home, Sweet Home, Cookery Book, Zapp's Fables and Errors of Speech.

Then comes the following choice mélange: Three Bibles, two Testaments, one cribbage board, one pair of razors, one whirling, one fan, one parache, three pokers, four garbages, one frozen fruit knives, one dolphin charm, one Worcester's spellers, one Leatherstocking Tales, two graphoscopes, one and a dozen illuminated cards, one opera glass, two sets of guns, one nest of trays, four dozen Japanese pincushions, one tobacco box, sixteen games, four opera glasses, one exchange, one opera glass, two and two Johnson's Potes.

Some imagination is required to classify the Bible as a newspaper, though its teachings might be news to some benighted Solon, and its purchase under any name should be encouraged. The spelling book and "Errors in Speech" are likewise highly commendable. But a whirling, illuminated bug, fruit knives and the dolphin charm might well be spared. "Ups and Downs" was evidently purchased for Goldlove. "We Are Seven" for the Greenbackers, "Little Budgeter" for Sunset Cox, the "Young Mariner" for Sevor Robeson, "Ziggag Journey" for Emory Speer, and "Home, Sweet Home" for Robert Smalls. The quantity might be extended indefinitely, but we will not betray the secrets of the contingent fund. Let us be thankful that at least "cold tea" was peddled out, in order to keep some members "wide awake."

The Supply Bill.

The supply bill has been reported in the Legislature, and it will in all probability pass without important changes. The total levy for State purposes will be five mills, for schools two mills and for ordinary county purposes three mills, making a levy of ten mills in all. For Fairfield there is no extra levy. In thirteen townships, in New River, five and a half mills, and in Number Fifty-two two and a half. Last year the average tax in the county was ten and seven-tenths mills. For this year it will be ten mills, or seven-tenths of a mill less. Monticello pays for school purposes and comes directly back to the taxpayers in the way of education for their children. It is a good investment. If the children were taught by

private teachers the cost would be much greater. The State is run economically, and for the necessary expense of providing education on the public debt the levy would be light. It is fastidious to criticize the extravagance of the administration and to say that we are no better off now than we were in the old times, but if the State were once more brought under the Radical yoke the folly of such cost would be soon made manifest. The Radical levied from fifteen to twenty mills on an assessment of \$180,000,000, while the Democratic levy is ten mills on a valuation of \$110,000,000 to \$120,000,000. Yet property of all kinds is worth more now than it was then, so that a comparison reduced to a common basis would be more than two to one in favor of the present regime. So much for a bare levy of money—when the disposition of it is considered, the comparison is as a hundred to one.

It may be true that there are not officers enough to go round, and some people are therefore doomed to dissatisfaction. But the general working of the State government is much better than can be seen by any mongered movement of dissatisfaction and ignorance. The State is run economically, and for the necessary expense of providing education on the public debt the levy would be light. It is fastidious to criticize the extravagance of the administration and to say that we are no better off now than we were in the old times, but if the State were once more brought under the Radical yoke the folly of such cost would be soon made manifest. The Radical levied from fifteen to twenty mills on an assessment of \$180,000,000, while the Democratic levy is ten mills on a valuation of \$110,000,000 to \$120,000,000. Yet property of all kinds is worth more now than it was then, so that a comparison reduced to a common basis would be more than two to one in favor of the present regime. So much for a bare levy of money—when the disposition of it is considered, the comparison is as a hundred to one.

The Railroad Bill.

The two houses have at last agreed as to the details of the Railroad bill, about which there has been so much discussion. The House changed the bill in several particulars, the most important of which are the reduction of the number of commissioners from three to one, and liberalizing the section in reference to consolidation of railway companies. The original bill was very strict in this matter and tended to prevent this consolidation and absorption, but the House took a different view and made it a simple matter. After the reception of the conference committee's report, Senator Smythe entered a protest in behalf of Senator Galliard and himself. They had served on the commission without bias, and had aided in a careful preparation of the bill. As now amended it is entirely different from what they conceived it should be. "The unlimited right to consolidate and guarantee are recognized by the soundest thinkers on this subject."

Senator Smythe then went on to deplore the unwholly railroad favor that has seized the State; and by virtue of which towns and counties are incurring burdens of debt that in the end will bring embarrassment if not disaster.

There is much force in these words. Railroads are admirable institutions; and, up to a certain point, they vastly improve the country through which they pass. But so soon as they are multiplied too greatly, and thus fail to become paying investments, they entail disaster on the communities that have invested in them. Railroad building produced the panic of 1873. Millions on millions of dollars were withdrawn from active circulation and expended in the Northern Pacific and other unprofitable lines. As long as this capital was consuming, flash times were enjoyed. But when it had all been invested, and no returns by way of dividends came back to the stockholders, and when bondholders clamored for interest, a sudden reversion ensued. The property was sacrificed at a nominal value, and the railroad stocks depreciated while some became worthless. The whole financial structure went like a card house.

The recent boom has started railroad building again, and even our own State is wild on the subject. Prices are inflated owing to the competition of rival lines to secure new outlets or connections. While this lasts all will be well. But at no time are we safe from danger. It is not wise to build too many roads; and towns and counties should not recklessly burden themselves with debt. During the flush times preceding 1873 towns and counties out West invested heavily in railroads, and they have suffered greatly. Missouri especially was much embarrassed, and a general effort was made by counties to repudiate their liabilities on technical grounds, but the Supreme Court of the United States held them to their bonds, and they still groan.

While we have no desire to discourage internal improvements, we deem it a duty to emphasize Senator Smythe's warning, and to urge the people of the State to hasten slowly, lest their profits of the past few years be swept away by over speculation.

How Protection Works.

Professor Ferry, of Williams College, shows that the present duty of thirty-five cents on cotton ties causes the planters to pay over seven hundred thousand dollars extra for baling their cotton; while the proposed increase to seventy per cent. would make the burden exceed fourteen hundred thousand dollars every year. Again, he shows that the tariff on steel amounts to six dollars on every bar of railroad iron, or over three thousand dollars per mile of single track, to pay for which freights and passenger fares must be proportionately increased. It has also been shown that alpaca, costing seven and one-eighth cents per yard in England, pays a duty of five cents and is sold here at twenty cents a yard. This is a burden on the poor. On cashmere, the duty is 18 cents, and the price in America is 55 cents. The English lady buys ten yards of cashmere for \$2.50, while the American pays \$5.50, of which \$1.85 is in the way of duty, or one-third of the entire cost.

On every shirt, sheet, napkin and pool of thread which is used. A suit of clothes for a gentleman which costs \$15 in London, reaches \$30 in New York, and \$40 in San Francisco. So in London the most fashionable tailor makes to order best black docket pants for \$7.20, vests for \$2.40 and black coats for the best broadcloth in London, silk lined, for \$19.36, while a good beaver cloth overcoat, with silk velvet collar, can be purchased for \$12 to \$15.

Mr. Burdick, a Republican Congressman, said in a speech some years ago that, according to the Chief of the Bureau of Statistics, the average duty on textile manufactures, earthenware, metals and provisions, are as follows: On cotton goods, 55 per cent.; earthenware, 49 per cent.; hemp, jute, and flax goods, 31 per cent.; metals, 29 per cent.; provisions, 32 per cent.; sugars, 45 per cent.; silk and silk

goods, 48 per cent.; woods and woolen goods, 60 per cent.

This tariff was adopted in 1892 under the influence of the war pressure, and was then called "An Act increasing temporarily the duties on imports." Yet by one pretext or another it remains on the statute book, sixteen years after the smoke of battle has cleared away.

No wonder the people are growing restless. Year before last by the superhuman efforts of the manufacturers the Republicans won the election on the tariff issue, and it was confidently asserted that "free trade" was forever buried. Yet, like all the other traditional doctrines of the Democracy, it has come up this year more defiant than ever. The reduction of the tariff is a question of time; but it is bound to come gradually. The masses, the great body of consumers, are not united, and for a while legislation will be confined to the tariff. But when they finally wake up, the roar of the lion will be heard indeed.

A Newspaper Fire in New York.

The "World" and "Sun" and other papers were burned at New York. The fire broke out at 10 o'clock this morning in the building corner of Park Row and Nassau Street, and spread rapidly, and involved the entire block as far as the Times office. The fire was extinguished before it had spread far, but the damage was done. The "World" and "Sun" were burned, and the "Times" office was damaged. The fire was caused by a gas stove in the basement of the building.

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An unfortunate difficulty. Personal misunderstanding between the Senator and the Collector. (From the Greenville News.)

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